

# NOME OF MEMPHIS - 1

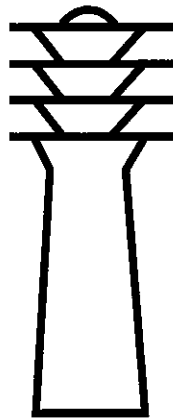
## ■ Introduction

Ancient Egyptians lived along a very narrow band of land that was made fertile by the Nile River's yearly flooding. They called this land KMT (*kemet*, or the Black Land, for the dark color of its earth). All else was DSHRT (*deshret*, or the Red Land, for its red sands and scorching heat). Another name for ancient Egypt is *Tamera*, "the land of the inundation."

From earliest times Ancient Egyptians unified neighboring villages into districts called *hesep*, or in Greek, *nome*. Each nome had its own government, capital city, protective god or gods, and temple. The nomes had carefully marked boundaries with records kept of their amount of farm land and their canals with all their branches. Each nome had a standard, a portable sign that included an image of the nome deity or a symbol of religious power.

## ■ About the nome

- You are a member of the nome of the White Wall, Aneb-het, the first nome of lower Egypt. Its capital city was Men-nefert, better known by its Greek name of Memphis.
- Memphis was chosen as the capital by Menes, the legendary first king to unite Upper and Lower Egypt. Thus Memphites claimed to be the first city, a claim disputed by Thebes.
- The djed pillar was a symbol of stability in ancient Egypt. The act of raising the pillar began in Memphis.
- The necropolis or cemetery for Memphis may be the largest cemetery in the world; it stretches more than 10 miles from Abu Rawash to Dashur. Within its boundaries are found all four types of pyramids constructed in ancient Egypt: mastabas, Zoser's step pyramid, Sneferu's bent pyramid, and the Great Pyramid, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The necropolis includes the Giza plateau with the Great Sphinx, and the cemetery of Saqqara which was important as a burial site and temple complex for over 3000 years.



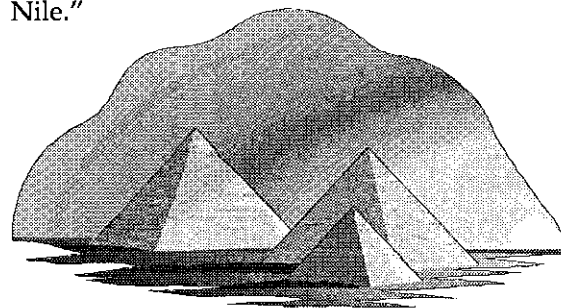
## ■ Gods of Memphis

- Ptah, Sekhmet, and their son Nefertem were the triad of gods for Memphis.
- Ptah was the worker god, the god of artists and craftsmen, the creator god who conceived the idea of creation in his heart, and when he spoke the idea, it was given form. It was said his cult was begun by Menes.
- Ptah was traditionally shown as a mummified figure with a shaven head, sideburns and a beard.
- The soul of Ptah was Apis the bull. The bull depicted after the Late period was shown running with the mummy of the deceased to the tomb. After the New Kingdom period, Apis was shown with the sun-disk on its horns. Near Memphis at Saqqara is the Serapeum, the burial place of the sacred bulls of Apis, consisting of two dozen granite and basalt sarcophagi. Each measured 13 feet long and 7 and 1/2 feet wide and weighed more than 6 tons.
- Sekhmet was the scorching, destructive power of the sun, the fierce protector of her father, Ra. Shown as a lion-headed woman, she was sometimes identified with Bast, the cat deity honored in Bubastis.
- Nefertem, most often shown in fully human form with a headdress of lotus (waterlily) and two plumes and two *menats*.

## ■ General Rules for Egyptians

As an Egyptian, you must preserve "Maat," an important ethical concept that combines "order, truth, justice, and righteousness."

1. Keep your nome area neat and organize all your efforts.
2. Be honest in all you say, and do not claim others' work as your own.
3. Be fair and listen carefully to fellow Egyptians. The Instruction of Amenemopet says: "Give your ears to hear what is said. Give your heart to understand what is said."
4. Be a committed member of "the Land of the Nile."

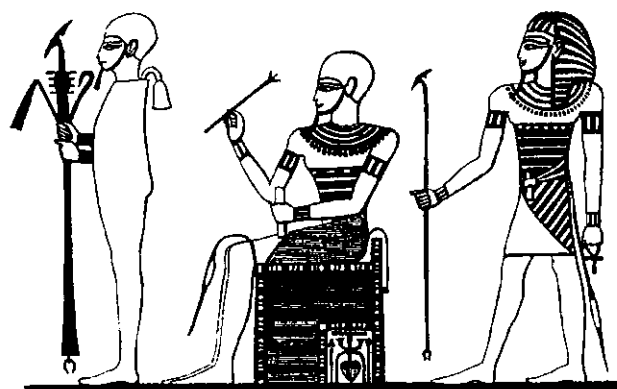
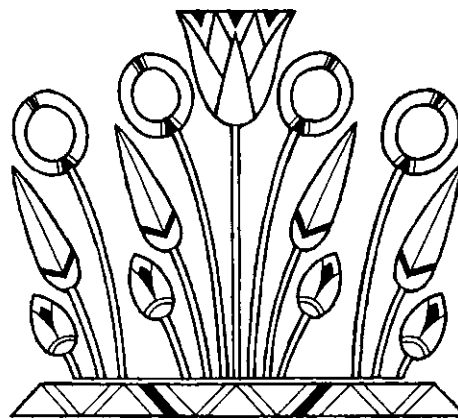


# NOME OF MEMPHIS - 2

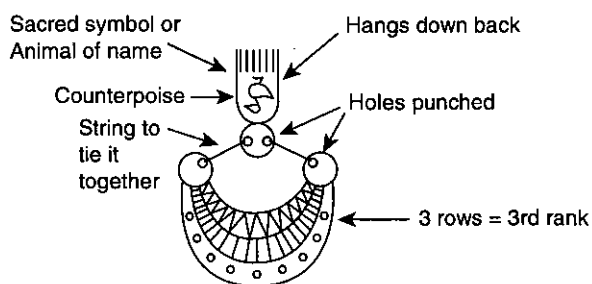
## ■ Rules for Memphites

1. As a Memphite, you must preserve **Maat**, for it is essential for the stability of all.
2. Work towards your goals as a bull running will move, swerving not at all, overwhelming all with its strength and courage. But find joy in the work, for Egyptians enjoyed life as children and adults. In fact they enjoyed it so much that their idea of an afterlife, for those who were good in this one, was an eternity of life just like the one they were living before they died.
3. Be fiercely protective of your nome, showing great loyalty to all members.
4. Even if flooded under the most difficult of circumstances, rise like the lotus (waterlily) toward the sun of accomplishment.
5. Be creative as Ptah, the artist god. Illuminate your art with the djed pillars and the color white, the symbol of omnipotence and joy.

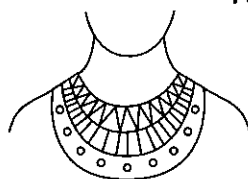
Then your nome will rise like the Great Pyramid, a symbol of extraordinary vision and effort, and you will travel far from the beginning to new understanding of "the Land of the Nile."



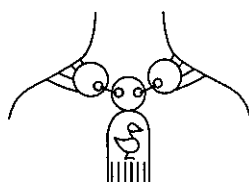
Ptah



Menat  
Necklace



Front View



Back View

## ■ Nome Assignment:

1. Create a **nome standard**, including the number of your nome. Use the symbols and colors of your nome deity.
2. Decide who is to be the **noble of your nome** (first rank); the **administrator** (second rank); the **scribe** (third rank); the **artisan** (fourth rank). The rest of the members of your nome will be the **laborers or farmers** (fifth rank).
3. Each member of the nome is to make a **menat** showing rank by the number of rows: first rank (the noble)—five rows; second rank (the administrator)—four rows; third rank (the scribe)—three rows; fourth rank (the artisan)—two rows; and fifth rank (the laborer or farmer)—one row.
4. The **menat** should use the distinctive colors and/or symbols of your nome.
5. Make a **headband** for each member of your nome, using either an uraeus representing Wedjat or a vulture representing Nekhbet. Nomes in Lower Egypt need to make an uraeus with a cobra; nomes in Upper Egypt need to make a nekhbet with a vulture.